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FAREWELL TO JOYCE

MOURNERS attended the funeral of charity fundraiser Joyce Long on Tuesday.

The great-grandmother of six passed away peacefully just before Christmas aged 86.

Joyce was made an MBE for her services to charity in 2004. She raised more than £1.5m in 30 years for Southend Hospital, mostly by holding charity sales close to her home in Thundersley.

In a statement, a family spokeswoman said: "We have lost a wonderful mother and grandmother, who always put other people before herself. She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. She lived for her family, her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her charity work was also very special to her. She will never be forgotten."

Local people would donate unwanted saleable items. Joyce would then store them and then sell them over a week long sale, often raising thousands of pounds.

The cash came via a series of pop-up charity shops and latterly through her famous garden sales, held three or four times a year.

Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust chairman, Alan Tobias OBE, said: "The name Joyce Long MBE is synonymous with fundraising here at Southend Hospital and we are deeply saddened by her death."

"Joyce was an amazing ambassador for our hospital and we are forever in her debt for the time she devoted to championing the care



FUNDRAISER: Joyce Long with some of the many items she sold for charity

of our patients and in helping to raise extraordinary sums of money for new equipment which have helped so many in our community over the years.

"Our thoughts and condolences are with Joyce's family at this very sad time."

Joyce started charity work by raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for an eye laser machine for Hammersmith Hospital, where her husband Percy, was being treated for diabetes.

"I used to go out to pubs and clubs of a night with my collection tin," Joyce said shortly before her death.

"Oh, there was plenty of banter, I can tell you. But I always did well."

Joyce supported all the major hospital appeals, including those to fund a CAT scanner and then an MRI machine in the 1990s.

Fellow fundraiser Malachy O'Sullivan, MBE, said: "Joyce Long was a trailblazer who did so much for the hospital. Her going will be a great loss to us all. She was an inspirational figure."

Joyce went on to support every single hospital appeal, along with donating equipment worth hundreds of thousands of pounds to individual wards.

The hospital named a room after her at its new Education Centre which opened in 2010.

By then she had graduated from late-night collections to starting a

series of pop-up shops in the Thundersley and Benfleet areas, with items donated by well-wishers.

A close friend, inspired by Joyce's dedication to giving, bequeathed the proceeds of the sale of a bungalow directly to the hospital charity.

Joyce also found the time to raise money for Great Ormond Street children's hospital, which had treated a family member.

But after suffering a small stroke seven years ago, daughter Angie Alden, 66, and son-in-law Ron persuaded her to scale down her efforts.

So she held a seasonal garden sale three or four times a year, raising between £9,000 and £12,000 a year, which still involved a huge amount of organisation and hard work.

"She was a brilliant mother, a brilliant grandmother and an amazing great-grandmother," said daughter Angie.

"She was a good wife - my dad was buried 22 years ago on the very day she died and she nursed him to the end."

"She was an amazing lady - always out in the garage sorting out stuff for her garden sales. She really was an inspiration to women."

Joyce is survived by Angie, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held at Thundersley Congregational Church, followed by a service at Southend Crematorium at midday.

SEE TRIBUTE TO THE MAN IN BLACK



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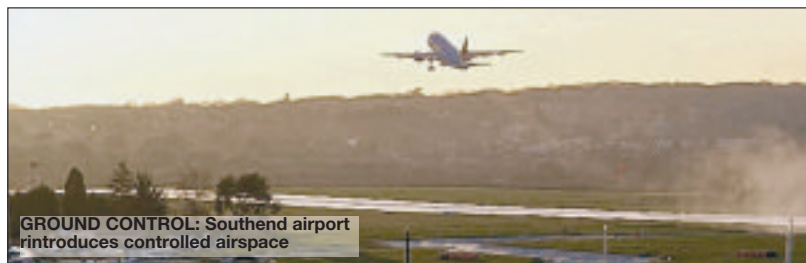
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A new hotel and medical unit, a footpath was shut and an airport expansion



GROUND CONTROL: Southend airport introduces controlled airspace



UNIQUE: Wendy and Gary Barnes Photo by Mark Cleveland



WRECKED: Work was needed on the cliffs after they began to slide
Photo Mark Cleveland

JANUARY

FOOTPATHS on the famous cliffs in Leigh were shut to the public because ground movement had made them unstable.

Since flooding in August 2013 the grounds of the cliffs had become saturated with water.

The level of the ground movement on Leigh Cliffs, below upmarket Cliffs Parade, had become evident causing the paths to become cracked

and uneven. The council said it had to shut the footpaths and erect signs for the safety of the public.

A couple who both had keyhole surgery for bowel cancer at the same time, helped raise £600,000 to provide a 21st century keyhole surgery suite at Southend Hospital.

Wendy and Gary Barnes have been together for 39 years and married for 29. They work together and share the same leisure interests.

Friends and family weren't surprised when they both had

to undergo surgery for bowel disease at the same time.

Plans to build a £15 million apartment block, restaurant and underground car park were put forward for the Esplanade pub site on Southend sea front.

The proposals were submitted by Swedish owned development company Redab Properties Plc and consisted of plans for 24 apartments.

The firm said the plans were designed to blend in with the town's conservation area, offering state of the art architectural designs including solar panels

READY: First council home built since 1989, and mayor Chris Walker



for energy savings, brown water initiatives to recycle rainwater, ground water for heating and the use of atriums to capitalise on natural light.

THE first council home built

increase the borough's stock of affordable housing.

Southend airport was given the go ahead to re-introduce a controlled airspace in February.

The Civil Aviation Authority announced the move would safeguard aircraft on the approach and departure from the airport and minimise environmental impacts.

MARCH

TWO new units were opened in March inside Southend Hospital's emergency department.

A new self contained area for children attending the paediatric emergency department (PED) opened with four dedicated bays with a separate triage room, providing a specialist area for children to be

cared for.

A new hotel in Southend created 77 new jobs.

The doors of the Premier Inn hotel, in Eastern Esplanade, were opened on Tuesday, March 17, by mayor Chris Walker.

The 81 bedroom hotel invested more than £1.5m into accommodation for visitors in the town opened with a Brewers Fayre Pub next to it.

Southend YMCA received a grant of £64,103 from BBC Children in Need.

The charity said the cash injection would help youngsters with education, employment and work for a Youth Achievement Awards.

Alex Milne, Team YP coordinator at Southend YMCA, said the achievement awards were a fantastic tool that helped youngsters build confidence, resilience and self esteem through positive activities, sports and personal development sessions.

The YMCA works with youngsters at risk of exclusion, isolation who may not be thriving at school or in their personal or home life.

Syrie Cox, CEO for Southend YMCA, said she was delighted and humbled to receive a grant from BBC Children in Need.



OPEN: James Currell (general manager emergency services), Dr Caroline Howard (clinical director and emergency medicine consultant), Rebecca Boyes (clinical manager emergency department) and Kerry Joseph (modern matron emergency department)

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COMPETITION

Paying tribute to the Man in Black

THE Johnny Cash Roadshow – the only show to be endorsed by the Cash family – is coming to the Towngate Theatre in February and we have FIVE pairs of tickets to give away. Prepare for a musical adventure with the roadshow's biggest production to date when it appears at the Basildon theatre on Sunday, February 21.

The UK's number one celebration of Johnny Cash, fronted by award-winning singer/songwriter Clive John, recreates with astounding accuracy and truly captures the essence of what it was like to be at a real Cash show.

Also featuring Jill Schoonjans as June Carter, Amanda Stone and Louise Masters as the Carter Sisters, along with the JC Horns, all aspects of Cash's life are covered with impeccable taste.

The show takes the audience from the 1950s to 2002 and all stops in between.

All the greatest hits are included, along with songs



from the latest album Out Among The Stars – all accompanied by screen images and shots from Cash's life.

The Johnny Cash Roadshow is a show not to be missed by avid fans or the casual listener.

For further information and tickets call the Towngate

Theatre box office on 01268 465465 or visit www.towngatetheatre.co.uk.

For your chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to see the show, which starts at 7.30pm, answer the following question.

Q: The Johnny Cash Roadshow starts its musical adventure from which

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A: 1940s

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To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to (0901 307 1689) along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

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2015 ROUND UP

APRIL-MAY



PRAISE: Air quality expert Simon Birkett



WINNERS: Southend FC players celebrate

Film festival launches and SUFC celebrates

APRIL

AIR quality expert Simon Birkett praised the YA for its ongoing campaign against deadly air pollution.

Mr Birkett, founder of campaign group, Clean Air In London, said no other media outlet had done more than the YA to bring the risks of invisible air pollution, and the opportunities to tackle it, to local people's attention.

He said the YA had conducted careful research, had a deep understanding of the issues making the YA a must-read on the important subject.

A quartet of beach babes brought some sunshine to town at the launch of the Southend Film Festival programme in April. It was the seventh year for the Southend Film Festival, which opened with a gala night premiere of a spy thriller, Age of Kill, that starred Martin Kemp as a former sniper whose daughter had been kidnapped. More than 40 films were scheduled to be screened.

Festival director Paul Cotgrove said a key feature of the festival was that they showcased new British films.

MAY

SOUTHEND Hospital's neonatal unit was named as one of the best in the UK in May. The unit was one of only four in the country to receive a UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative award.

A Southend woman whose daughter was killed in a road accident started a support group for bereaved parents. Joy Rooke, 62, lost her 31-year-old daughter Debbie in April 2013.

Thousands of Southend United fans flocked to the seaford to see their heroes, the

Shrimpers, parading the Sky Bet League Two play off trophy.

The Blues clinched promotion to League One with a dramatic 7-6 penalty shoot out over Wycombe Wanderers at Wembley. The teams had officially finished the match at 1-1 after 120 minutes. Joe Pigott scored the equaliser during the extra injury time. Thrilled supporters lined the golden mile as the triumphant team were escorted through on an open top bus.

Southend fan Dave Goody told Yellow Sport the emotions felt by fans were 'incredible.'

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2015 ROUND UP

JUNE-JULY



CLEAN: Volunteers get busy at the beach
Photo Mark Cleveland



MARITIME: Getting sandy at the festival
Photo Mark Cleveland

Maritime festival is a first for Southend

JUNE

THOUSANDS of people flocked to Southend seafront to enjoy the first Southend-on-Sea maritime festival.

Revellers were blessed with glorious sunshine for a week-end bonanza of activities along the seafront between Three Shells Beach and the Sea-Life Adventure Aquarium. Thames Coastguard closed its doors for good in June. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency shut the Thames station covering the Essex and Kent coast line. Thames Coastguard

officers exclusively told the YA they thought the service 'would not be as effective' running from a different area as local knowledge would be lost. Members of Southend's Volunteer Centre met up at Uncle Tom's Cabin, Shoebury Common Beach for a hard day's graft of beach cleaning. The big annual beach clean up was part of volunteers week and saw people of all ages roll their sleeves up and get cleaning. Volunteers learnt about environmental concerns including seaweed identification and plastics.

JULY

A STUDENT was jailed for life in July for the murder of Hassan Mohammed.

Hassan, 24, of Camberwell in London, was stabbed twice in York Road, Southend, on July 7, 2014. He died at Southend Hospital the following day. Tajwar Alam, 19, of Seaford Road, North London, had denied murder but was convicted by a majority verdict after a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court. He was sentenced at the same court on Friday July 3.

A Southend councillor enlisted the YA's

help to get residents views on beefing up neighbourhood security with private firms in addition to police.

St Lukes ward Independent councillor Brian Ayling said he wanted to know if families would pay around 50p a week for a security company to provide a rapid response to the first sign of trouble. Councillor Ayling's idea came in the wake of Essex police commissioners Nick Alson's controversial plans to slash neighbourhood policing. He said residents 'couldn't be sure a 999 call would get an urgent response'.

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Booming tourism and sailors compete

AUGUST

SOUTHEND Council set aside cash for a radical overhaul of Southend pier.

Council chiefs wanted to hear from as many people as possible about their dream idea of what they would love to see on the pier.

The news came as research showed almost seven million people visited Southend last year.

However just 315,000 of those visitors went onto the pier.

Council leaders said they want the pier to become a major attraction in itself.

In an exclusive meeting with the YA council leader Ron Woodley said it was crucial the authority received public feedback on the topic.

Improvements to the pier would be paid for by a private company or by the council.



The Beecroft art gallery in Station Road, Westcliff needed a new purpose in life.

Residents views were being sought on what they would like to see inside the charming Edwardian property, which was a hotel before it became an art gallery.

The gallery, which first opened in 1953, was the brainchild of Walter Beecroft who

was a local solicitor and art lover. Southend braced itself for another huge wave of tourists and business visitors in August. The news came following the YA's revelation the town had seen a 364 per cent increase in the number of visitors compared to five years ago. Numbers were expected to grow again following a staunch campaign to forge business, tourism and cultural links between Southend and a host of European cities.

Council chiefs gave business and tourism bosses from the Dutch town Groningen, a tour of Southend during the peak holiday season.

The two parties met on Southend pier, took a tour of the town, then had lunch at Thorpe Bay's Rosalin Hotel.

During discussions, both parties vowed to forge links between the two locations in a bid to increase visitors in each area.

SEPTEMBER

CHILDREN and parents enjoyed a festival with a difference inside one of Southend's most picturesque parks.

Southend model boat club held their annual festival of model boating.

Visitors enjoyed a lively three days in Southchurch Park.

Dark skies, winds and swirling Thames currents tested the skills of the bravest sailors as Southend saw the start of a year long race in September.

Thousands turned out at Southend pier to watch the start of the world's longest yacht race – with 12 amateur teams, including housewives and vicars, circumnavigating 40,000 nautical mile of perilous waters. Organisers said the



world's longest race, the Clipper race, was being held in aid, this year, of the children's charity, UNICEF.

Normally the domain of seasoned pros, the supreme sailing challenge was being taken on

by ordinary, everyday people. The sailors will battle on until June 2016 in 12 identical 70 foot yachts.

Boy racers were banned from cruising along Southend's famous sea front in September. Over the decades, thousands of people loved the loudly popping exhausts from the colourful customised cars at the unauthorised events.

Southend transport bosses finally put their foot down and secured an injunction against the events they said, were putting lives at risk.

Hundreds of youngsters regularly cruised Western Esplanade in the evenings at the weekend.

The council said people got to know about the meetings from social media sites.

The drivers told the YA they were gutted the council had put the breaks on their fun.



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Hotel collapses and jobs go

OCTOBER

A CHARITY group formed to transform the dilapidated tram stop at Thorpe Bay to convert the old Victorian tram shelter into a space for community use.

The charity, largely consisting of members of Thorpe Bay Residents Association, was started by former police boss, Bob Craven and his wife Dorothy.

Dorothy told the *YA* they had the idea years ago when she and Bob would regularly take a walk along the seafront past the boarded up shelter and both thought the shelter should be put to good use.

Bob said 95 community groups equating to around 1,500 people said they would use the seafront space once it had been renovated.

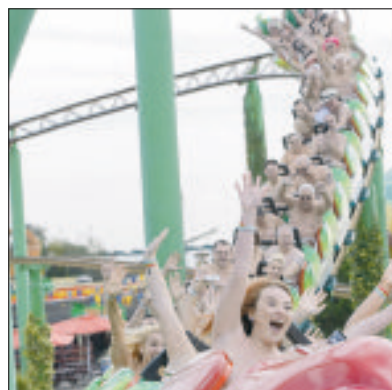
The groups included people with impaired sight, schools and health and fitness groups.

When the trams stopped running in 1938, they were replaced by trolley-buses.

The area became more built up so the service was extended to Shoeburyness.

● MORE than £10,000 was raised for Southend Hospital's keyhole cancer appeal after 57 thrill seekers shed their inhibitions and their clothes in October to take part in a naked roller coaster ride.

The original world record was set by Adventure Island five years ago, when 102 thrill-streakers rode the Green Scream to



THRILL STREAKERS: Southend naked rollercoaster

Photo by Martin Dalton

raise over £20,000 for Southend hospital's Bosom Pals Appeal.

Organisers said people travelled from all over Essex and the UK to take part – with the furthest coming from Edinburgh, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Gloucester and Swindon.

Many of the original thrill streakers from 2010 also took part in the anniversary.

● SCHOOL children had been busy during October raising money for Southend's YMCA.

Shoebury school hosted fancy dress parties, cake sales, and even braved the chilly weather with a sleep outside event.

YMCA bosses praised the youngsters' efforts.

NOVEMBER

THOUSANDS of people took part in a moving Remembrance Day service in Southend.

The service began in Prittlewell Square with veterans and other uniformed organisations assembled with standard bearers.

The Queen's colour party then marched to the head of the parade which moved off towards the Cenotaph followed by representatives of Southend's faith communities who were led by major Andrew Bale of the Salvation Army.

● IT was announced 1,200 jobs were to go at Southend's Revenue and Customs office.

The losses at the Victoria Road office, were part of a nationwide drive to slash government spending.

Union chief Margaret Rathbone told the *YA* the news was devastating for Southend.

She said workers would either be offered compulsory redundancy or be offered a job at another customs and revenue office which would mean extra time spent travelling and extra cost.

The office, scheduled to shut in 2020, deals with income tax and tax credits.

The Government announced it would open an office in Stratford, east London in 2021 and would house up to 7,000 workers.

● THE demolition of Leigh's historic Bell Hotel had been described by Southend planners as a 'devastating' to the town's architectural heritage.

Southend Council said it had been working with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to investigate the collapse of the hotel's roof in November.

Roads were closed, and the damage resulted in the historic building – which was being redeveloped into luxury flats – being demolished.

CLr Martin Terry, executive councillor for housing, planning and regulatory services at Southend Council, said the collapse of the Bell Hotel was as a devastating blow to Leigh's architectural heritage.

● COUNCIL chiefs told the *YA* Southend had been awarded the highest number of blue flag awards to reach the 'excellent' category than ever before for its beaches this year.

Thrilled council bosses said the news would mean massive boost for the area's tourist trade next year worth £400 million annually.

Four of the eight bathing waters - Shoebury East beach, Shoeburyness, Thorpe Bay and Westcliff Bay - were ranked 'excellent' - up three on last year - with another two beaches rated 'good'.

The blue flag scores came despite the stricter EU scoring system for water quality, introduced this year.

DECEMBER

AN AUTHOR from Southend shared her good news with the *YA* that she had signed a three-book deal with a major publisher.

Syd Moore – author of best sellers *Witch Hunt* and *The Drowning Pool* – announced she was to write a trilogy of supernatural-themed mysteries for OneWorld, publishers of this year's Booker Prize-winner – *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, by Marlon James.

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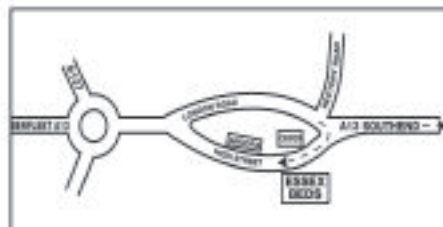
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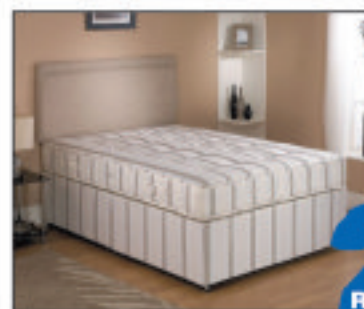
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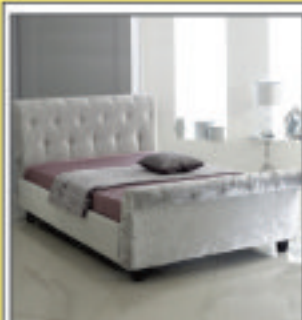
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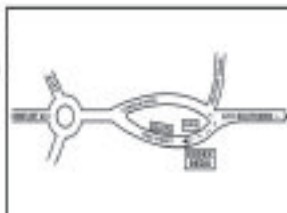
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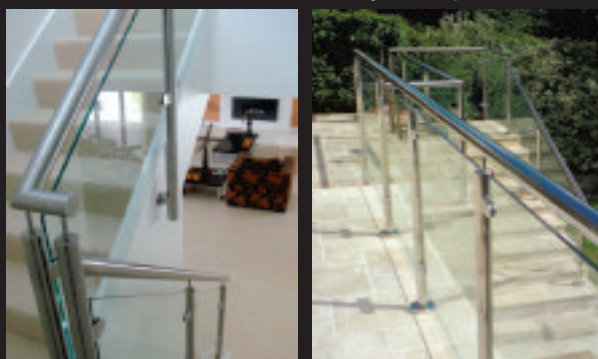
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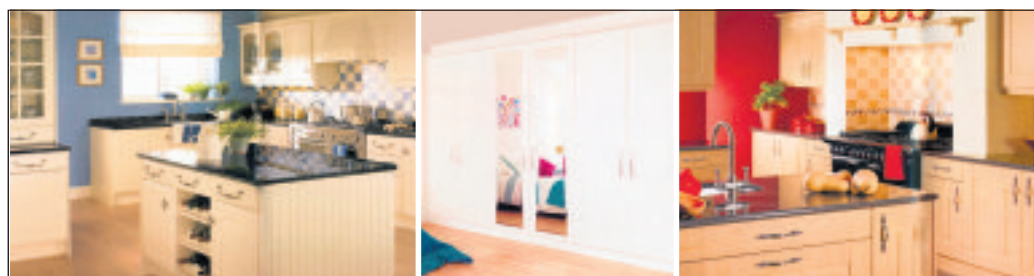
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Music teacher Janet leads from front

A RETIRED music teacher is enjoying her new career as a conductor.

Janet Walker is one of just a handful of women who have secured the position in a traditionally male dominated role. Husband Chris Walker, who was Southend mayor last year, said he was thrilled.

He said: "I recently drove my wife to the Albert Hall as she was conducting the Southend Boys choir, it was a fantastic day. Then the other day we went to the Actors

Church in Covent Garden where Janet conducted another orchestra."

Janet also works as a music teacher at West Leigh infant school.



HAPPY: Conductor Janet Walker with husband Chris
Photo Mark Cleveland

What's the point of meeting?

I RECENTLY attended the December police meeting in Rochford Town.

I have been attending the Hockley and Rochford police meetings for something approaching ten years and they normally get between five and ten residents and councillors that go regularly.

Just after the current proposed police cuts three months ago our meetings were hijacked by Inspector Fergus Caulfield to justify these cuts. He has a way of coming across as arrogant and uncaring and that it's all out of his hands and tough luck for the public.

The October meeting had about 50 people attending, the November meeting about 25 and December's meeting about 80.

At every meeting there has been a number of angry residents, particularly about the cutbacks in PCSOs patrolling our streets when there has been so much antisocial behaviour in Rochford Town centre.

Normally there has been a

local PC/Sgt in attendance able to answer local issues, but not at this meeting and it was obvious that Insp Caulfield was out of his depth on what is happening locally.

I was also surprised at Insp Caulfield's opinion that local police could be replaced by public volunteers or that we could pay for private local police.

I believe we already pay enough for our police force and I see no reason to pay again. The meeting ended with Insp Caulfield stating that these meetings are not "police meetings" but "community meetings".

He can call them what ever he wants but if there are no local police in attendance I for one will not be going.

Alan James Hockley

Not just any old green belt land

THE thirst for land to build homes on is huge and whilst I understand Osborne and other government ministers, I am not for opening up just any green belt land for housing or any other building.

There must be a sensible criteria and surely traffic and highway must be among these?

Too many new residents are going to find themselves thrown in to an instant frying pan at no fault to themselves.

Cllr Mark Flewitt Leigh on Sea

Caught up in pension changes

PLEASE spare a thought for the 'forgotten ones'.

We are the 700,000 mainly women caught up in the new pensions changes.

I have worked nearly all my life, paid National Insurance for 40 years. I should have got my pension in 2013 at 60.

Now I will have to wait until nearly the end of 2016.

After three bereavements – my mother-in-law in 2014, my husband this year and my best friend, I could really do with the money and because of a few savings I will have to pay nearly full council tax. I will lose out of nearly £15,000.

Tories the party of working people? I don't think so!

Rosemary Apple Westcliff-on-sea

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space.

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk



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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming

BY LIZ WADE

TAKE a musical journey through the story of one of Britain's most memorable and fun bands and catch up with one of the most popular and exciting live rhythm and blues acts in the world, all at Palace Theatre, Southend, next month.

Sensational theatre extravaganza, Complete Madness, will be at the theatre first, on Thursday, January 21, offering their very own 'house of fun'.

The amazing talents of the five-piece band lets audiences relive the madness of Madness with all your favourites including Baggy Trousers, One Step Beyond, It Must Be Love and Driving In My Car, combined with crazy costumes and plenty of comedy.

Complete Madness was formed in 1994 out of a band called Beat The System, which in turn had been together since 1989.

When bass guitarist Steve Cliffe brought up the idea of learning a few Madness tracks in 1992, more and more of their hits as well as Specials tracks were being learnt and bookings started to increase.

It was then that it was decided there was only one direction to take the band, so Complete Madness was born, named after the first Madness album that lead vocalist Mark had ever bought.

Fellow founding member, Derek Wood, who performs backing vocals and lead guitar, also played a key role in the development of Complete Madness, by running the band.

They are joined on stage by saxophonist Kevin Stanfield, the newest member of Complete Madness, who has previously played around the country with some of the UK's biggest tribute bands.

Complete Madness' other members include David Potter on keyboards and backing vocals who, as well as performing with Complete Madness, also runs a monthly jam session in his local pub where he often performs solo, and drummer Jeff Thompson, who was inspired to take up drum lessons at the age of 15 by his uncle, Wally Thompson, who was a top session drummer.

Complete Madness will be followed by Dr Feelgood at Palace Theatre on Saturday, January 23.

HEAVY HEAVY MONSTER SOUND...



ROCK ON: Dr Feelgood and left, Complete Madness, are coming to Palace Theatre, Southend

Formed on Canvey Island in the early 1970s, Dr Feelgood remains one of the most popular and exciting live rhythm and blues acts in the world.

The raw and uncompromising style of their performance resulted in their live album Stupidity immediately going to number one position in the UK charts in 1976.

Dr Feelgood – named after a well-loved Johnny Kidd and the Pirates version of a blues standard – have also enjoyed global success with a string of hit singles including Milk and Alcohol, Roxette, Back in the Night, Down at the Doctors, Going Back Home and See You Later Alligator.

The current line-up features Kevin Morris on drums and Phil Mitchell on bass, both 29 years in the band, and Steve Walwyn on guitar, who has been with the band for 23 years.

Vocalist Robert Kane, formerly of The Animals, is the most recent addition, having been with Dr Feelgood since 1999.

Britain's most enduring and best loved R&B bands continues to thrill audiences across the world and enjoy a loyal following at home and abroad.

If you do not get a chance to see Dr Feelgood at Palace Theatre, Southend, on Saturday, January 23, they will be performing at Thameside Theatre, Grays, on Friday, April 1, alongside Eddie & The Hot Rods – one of the most influential and recognisable

names from the English pub rock scene.

Having enjoyed a career that has now spanned nearly 40 years the band still tour all over the world, serving up a high-energy mix of classic Eddie & The Hot Rods songs including Teenage Depression, Gloria, Do Anything You Wanna Do, and new songs from their last two studio albums.

For tickets to see Complete Madness and Dr Feelgood at Palace Theatre, Southend, call the box office on 01702 351135 or visit southendtheatres.org.uk.

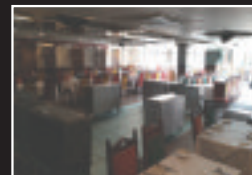
For further information and tickets to see Dr Feelgood and Eddie & The Hot Rods at Thameside Theatre, Grays, on Friday, April 1, call the box office on 0845 300 5264 or visit www.thurrock.gov.uk/thameside-theatre.

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Traditional Indian cuisine

Advertisement feature

FINE traditional Indian cuisine and fantastic entertainment is on offer at the popular Blue Chutney, at 31 The Broadway, Wickford.

The restaurant serves an extensive selection of fine traditional Indian cuisine, thanks to its award-winning chef, Kamrul Islam.

As well as freshly preparing an extensive range of standard Indian dishes Kamrul and his team also serve up a variety of specialities that will suit a range of tastes and mouth-watering cuisine such as Bombay sizzling Tava, Zinga Delight, Sylhti Bahar and Shaslik Chicken Masala.

Blue Chutney is not only the place to be to eat delicious food, but it's also the venue to enjoy a variety of entertainment such as tribute nights. The up-and-coming tribute nights, which include a four-course set meal at £21.95 per head, include Luther Vandross on Friday, February 12; Elvis on Thursday, March 10; and Phil Collins on Friday, April 29.

Throughout 2016 diners are invited to party at the Blue Chutney thanks to its Drinks Promotion every Wednesday and Friday evenings. Enjoy a starter, main course, side dish, rice or naan bread from the menu (King Prawn extra £3.30) and as much drink

as you want for one hour 45 minutes. YOU MUST BOOK YOUR TABLE IN ADVANCE TO ENJOY THIS OFFER, which costs £20.95 per person on Wednesdays and £25.95 on Fridays. Drinks include Cobra and Carling draught beer, wine by the glass, spirits - Vodka, Gin, Whisky and Brandy, as well as Baileys, Malibu, Archers and soft



drinks (excludes wines by the bottle and champagne, terms and conditions apply).

On Sundays and Thursdays there is a five course banqueting night to enjoy at Blue Chutney which includes one starter, one main course, one side dish and any one sundries, plus coffee, for only £10.95 on Sunday and £11.95 on Thursday. Again table bookings in advance required.

The Blue Chutney, which also offers a

full takeaway service with free local delivery, is open Monday to Sunday lunchtime from noon to 2pm, as well as from 5.30pm to 10.30pm from Monday to Thursday; 5.30pm to 11.30pm on Friday and Saturday; and from 5pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

For further information or to make a reservation call the Blue Chutney on 01268 763866, e-mail bluechutney@hotmail.com, or visit their website www.blue-chutney.com

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Liz At Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about



Churchill's cherished gardens

WANDER the gardens of the beloved home of one of Britain's greatest politicians, Sir Winston Churchill, this winter, while also finding out more about the man himself during a special exhibition.

While Chartwell House is closed during the winter, there is still plenty to do in the grounds of the famous home in Westerham, Kent, before it fully reopens in the spring.

There is even some festive fun still to be had up until Sunday, January 3, so why not make the most of the remainder of the Christmas holidays.

At Chartwell, where Churchill drew inspiration from 1924 until the end of his life, there are beautiful gardens to explore, as well as a studio and a special new exhibition.

The studio, which is open every day from noon to 3.30pm, displays many of Churchill's paintings which have been saved for the nation.

As an avid amateur painter he created more than 500 canvasses during his lifetime, from landscapes of familiar surroundings at Chartwell to scenes from his travels to Egypt, Paris and Marrakech.

As well as gazing at the paintings, you can also discover more

about them and Churchill's style of painting during talks held in the studio every day at 12.30pm and 2pm.

Chartwell's new winter exhibition Into the Trenches is open until Sunday, February 21. It marks 100 years since Churchill served on the Western Front during the First World War and focuses on his education, his involvement in the Boer War, and his time as Lord of the Admiralty before he moved on to his service in the trenches during the Great War.

Take time out to explore the gardens at Chartwell and discover its kitchen garden, the lakes that Churchill created, its rose walk and orchard, as well as the rock garden, which caught Lady Churchill's eye at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1948 and was given to her as a gift.

The hillside gardens, which also include the Marycot, a playhouse designed for Churchill's youngest daughter Mary, reflect Sir Winston's love of the landscape and nature.

If you want to venture further



GREEN OASIS: Chartwell House

then beyond the gardens there is an expanse of woodland, natural play areas and swings, with looped trails, and a three-hour Limpfield Chart circular walk that will take you across open countryside and wooded glades.

What's more, from 11am to 3pm,

every day up until Sunday, January 3, you can pick up a children's trail from the visitor welcome centre.

Throughout the Christmas holidays youngsters have been taking on the challenge to spot the toys accidentally dropped by Father Christmas as he flew over

Chartwell on his sleigh, and tackle some festive puzzles along the way.

You can still do so up until January 3, so make sure you take all the family and pick up a prize.

■ For further information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell.

You can read previous days out by visiting www.yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 32 Adalia Crescent Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 3SN, who died on 08/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 04/03/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Women seeking men

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SALLY, 39yrs seeks doesn't want to be lonely this xmas. Seeks gent any age/looks unimportant must have GSOH. Box: 4186657. Text only.

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420353

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun, I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167

JEAN, 44, professional nurse attractive and all woman! Loves winning and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420351

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420237

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420205

MELANIE, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 412160

VAL, 45, compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no pre-conceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420193

MARIANNE, 38, slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420173

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 416497

SUZANNE, lovely, mature, slim, educated, blonde Essex lady, seeks an arrangement with an elder benevolent gent, for mutually beneficial liaisons, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420103

DEBBIE, 43, dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420071

KAY 66 widow, slim, blonde 5'5, fun loving, loves travel, out door life and much more. Seeks similar man aged 59-69 for friendship, maybe more. Text only to Mailbox no: 5312512

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420041

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 418791

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTW him. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420001

ELAINE, 51, new to this, free spirited petite blonde, feminine and all women, seeks romantic male who enjoys good times, fun and passion. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419849

DENISE attractive 30's female, sincere warm-hearted romantic, looking for male to enjoy pamper treats, hotel retreats and lots lots more! Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419837

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive, petite but shapely lady seeks gent for indoor activities! Age/looks/marital status unimportant but must be discreet and non demanding. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 420235

DIANE 37, romantic, sentimental, loves to be pampered, WLTW similar gent for mutual spoiling with lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419819

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Wink 27

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CARING, loving, good to be with female, enjoys swimming, walking my dog, having fun, good sense of humour seeks similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063098

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTW nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419415

SUE, lovely sensual brunette, young 50, seeks adventurous, fun loving, tactile younger male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419381

DEBRA, tall busty female, endless legs, enjoys wild side of life, seeks confident male to try new things with. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419379

SARAH, 37, beautiful broad-minded female, seeks similar open-minded hunky guy for fun/friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 418167

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PAUL, slim, long hair, no baggage, looking for a lady over 35. Give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 418873

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in Spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox no: 4112425

MALE, 53, easygoing, likes the good things in life, looking for a nice Christian lady 30-60, for chats and to get to know each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419255

62YR old male, WLTW lady 60-74 for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 410937

CARIBBEAN gent, five foot six, likes cooking and the cinema seeks lady with GSOH for caring, long-term relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420333

SINCERE male, 69, discreet, sensual, seeks lonely lady of any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420263

BRAD, 41, lives in Essex, artist, WLTW a girl to live life and enjoy good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420293

YOUNG 54yr old biker, tall, slim, tattoos, easygoing, honest, likes sunny rides out, music, cinema, seeks lady, 40-50 with similar interests for rides out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 406783

NEVILLE Caribbean, 5ft 6ins, seeking similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 386159

SINCERE male, 69, discreet, sensual, seeks lonely lady of any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420263

HATE spending Christmas season alone. Black male, 55, WLTW open-minded, easygoing female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420215

MATURE businessman seeking his slim, sugar baby, active, many varied interests, has own flat and car. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 419895

MALE, athletic build, tall, GSOH, likes nature and going out and having a good time, looking for nice lady between the ages of 23-45 for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 420255

SMART, decent male, young 62, 5ft 9ins, medium build, GSOH, likes meals out, seeks slim female with similar qualities. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 332683

GENUINE male, young 62, 5ft 9ins, GSOH, N/S, likes travel, meals out, drives, seeks petite female for nice times. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 339855

DECENT, smart N/S male, 61, 5ft 9ins, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, seeks slim female, 55-60 with no ties for a new start. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 343214

YOUNG 64, caring male, 5ft 9ins, N/S, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, seeks petite, caring lady. Hornchurch. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 363085

SMART male, young 63, 5ft 9ins, N/S, likes travel, animals, seeks slim, genuine female for nice times. Tel No: 0906 500 3766 Box No: 366055

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BLUES SAVAGED BY FIERCE LIONS

Southend United

Southend United 0-4 Millwall
Brian Jeeves reporting
from Roots Hall Stadium

SOUTHEND United's recent unbeaten Sky Bet League One run came to an abrupt end as impressive Millwall breezed to a comfortable victory on a hugely disappointing afternoon at Roots Hall.

Blues went into this clash in a buoyant mood following a Boxing Day triumph at local rivals Colchester United, a victory that extended their recent unbeaten sequence to seven and kept them within touching distance of the play-off places.

Meanwhile Millwall arrived at Roots Hall keen to end a run of four straight league defeats that had seen them frustratingly slip away from the chasing pack towards the top of the table.

Blues boss Phil Brown kept faith with the same starting eleven as that from the derby win at the Weston Homes Stadium, but it was a scrappy opening to the encounter, with neither side able to offer any kind of quality or viable threat. Indeed, the game was 15 minutes old before either side produced a goalbound effort, Blues Adam Barrett heading over a Ben Coker flag-kick, while Ryan Leonard was unable to hit the target after finding some room at the far post. But just before the half hour mark, and with their first real foray forward, Millwall grabbed the lead. Joe Martin fired low past Daniel Bentley from 18-yards, this after the hosts had failed to deal with Fred Onyedinnma's centre.

Blues looked for an immediate

way back. Leonard fired over after David Mooney had picked him out, while Noel Hunt's header did very little to trouble Millwall's Irish international keeper David Forde.

But before Blues could make any real headway their troubled deepened. Shaun Cummings effort came back off an upright, striking Bentley and agonisingly ricocheting back over the line.

Millwall could have had a third, firstly when Onyedinnma surged forward, but his close range attempt drifted the wrong side of a post and then when Steve Morison fired wide with the Blues rearguard at sixes and sevens.

But the Blues disastrous half wasn't finished, and when Bentley could only push out Morison's fizzing effort, Onyedinnma was on and to rifle high into the net to put the visitors in dreamland.

After the break Blues chief Brown rung the changes with Gary Deegan and Stephen McLaughlin being thrown on in place of Worral and Coker. But it was Millwall who almost added to their tally when Aiden O'Brien's header was clawed out by Bentley. Blues responded, but substitute Joe Pigott was thwarted firstly by a last ditch challenge from Williams, and then when Martin put his body on the line to block.

But the visitors confidence was now sky high, and when Morison expertly sent O'Brien clear the former Ireland under 21 international steered past Bentley for the Lions fourth. A combination of Leonard and Bentley denied the marauding Onyedinnma a late fifth for Millwall, and despite Joe Pigott passing up a decent opportunity to give

the scoreline some respectability, many Blues fans had long since headed for the exits.

Phil Brown didn't have too much to say after the game, stating: "We contributed to our own downfall. We gifted them all three of their goals in the first half. It's an off-day. We had two of them last year against Wycombe and Stevenage, this is another one. It really hurts".

Meanwhile delighted Millwall boss Neil Harris said: "I'm really pleased. We knew it was going to be a tough game. We knew anything we wanted to achieve we'd have to battle for. "As ever we have a game plan, but it's how the players execute it. But I thought our quality in the final third was brilliant for us today. We took our chances when they came, I thought we could have had a couple more goals.

Southend United will look to bounce back from their Millwall disappointment when Doncaster Rovers are the visitors to Roots Hall in Sky Bet League One on Saturday January 2 (3pm).

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White (Capt), Ben Coker (Stephen McLaughlin), Adam Thompson, Adam Barrett, David Worral (Gary Deegan), Ryan Leonard, Will Atkinson, Jack Payne, David Mooney, Noel Hunt (Joe Pigott). Subs not used: Luke Prosser, Ted Smith, Kevan Hurst, Glen Rea

Millwall: David Forde, Shaun Cummings, Joe Martin, Shaun Williams, Ed Upson, Fred Onyedinnma (Shane Ferguson), Mark Beevers, Byron Webster, Steve Morison (Alfie Pavey), George Saville, Aiden O'Brien (Ben Thompson). Subs not used: Jordan Archer, Sid Nelson, Jimmy Abdou, Jamie Philpot

Referee: Kevin Wright
Assistants: Graham Kane and Richard Kendall

Fourth Official: Gavin Muge
Attendance: 10,099



GIFTED: Phil Brown

Photo by Martin Dalton

Non-league round-up

Billericay win derby

By Brian Jeeves

BILLERICAY Town heaped more Boxing Day misery on Canvey Island after goals either side of the break from former Southend United man Teddy Nesbitt and Tom Derry earned the Blues a 2-0 Ryman Premier League derby victory at Park Lane.

Third placed Billericay are now just two points behind leaders Dulwich Hamlet, while the Gulls slip to 13th. This was Canvey's fourth defeat on the bounce, and extended a run of 13 years without a festive win on December 26.

Meanwhile in the lead-up to the match, Canvey parted company with midfielders Ozzy Adeniji and Glenn Poole. The former quickly linked up with Billericay, and was an unused substitute for the Park Lane clash.

East Thurrock United continued their recent good form with a hard fought 1-0 triumph over Enfield Town at Rookery Hill. Ryan Scott grabbed the only goal for the ninth placed Rocks who are now just five points off the play-off positions. Elsewhere, Brentwood Town's derby with Grays Athletic at the Arena was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

There was a thriller in Ryman League Division One North where Maldon & Tiptree and Tilbury shared the spoils after playing out an incredible 4-4 draw. Sam Newson grabbed a brace for the host, while Darren McQueen and Matthew Lock were also on target. Anthony Martin (2), Harry Cook and Daniel Glozier (penalty) replied for the Dockers.

There wasn't too much Christmas cheer for the region's National League clubs. Braintree Town suffered a rare defeat after Anthony Jeffery's early goal earned host Boreham Wood the points at Meadow Park.

In National League South Lewis Taaffe and Steve Cowley found the net for Concord Rangers, but goals from Jordan Parkes (2), Danny Kedwell and Matt Godden earned league leaders Ebbsfleet United an entertaining 4-2 victory.

And there was a narrow setback for Chelmsford City who went down to a single Andy Pugh goal on the hour against old adversaries Dartford at the Melbourne Stadium. Despite the defeat, City would have been encouraged by another bumper Melbourne Stadium crowd of 810.

In the Essex Senior League Ilford took the festive honours with a 3-1 win over Wadham Lodge at the Matchday Centre. Wale Odedoyin grabbed an impressive hat trick for the winners. Ilford move up to seventh in the ESL, while fourth placed Lodge contemplated a missed opportunity to close the gap on league leaders FC Romania.

Saxons struggle to finish job at Bishops Stortford

Rugby

Bishops Stortford 28
Southend Saxons 15

THE Saxon injury list grows and grows leaving them to rue yet another loss from a good position.

After 30 minutes away at Bishop Stortford Southend found themselves fifteen points up after Bradley Burr

scored a smart try from another of his little chips over the top. He gathered it himself and touched down. His conversion took the score to 0-7.

It soon moved to 0-15 when Mark Billings collected another Burr chip and scorched over the line.

But that proved to be it for the Saxons as both Sam Fombo and Kris Chesney left the field injured. They were shortly

followed by Dylan Day-White steadily improving at hooker and having a good game on Saturday. He was replaced by regular hooker Nik Grier who was already suffering from an injury sustained a week or so ago.

It was all too much against an ever improving Bishop Stortford side which ran in four unanswered converted tries, one in the first half and three

in the second.

It still leaves Southend in eighth on 32 points - only five points ahead of Canterbury in 15th.

With Redruth at home on Sunday January 3 and Old Albanians away the following Saturday, the Saxons will have to re-start the season with a few points if they are to avoid yet another season struggling to survive.

Rovers hammered by Hornchurch handful

Football

Great Waking Rovers 0 AFC Hornchurch 5
Brian Jeeves reporting from Burroughs Park
GEORGE Purcell and Alex Bentley grabbed a brace apiece as AFC Hornchurch swept to an impressive 5-0 Ryman League Division One North victory over

out of form Great Waking Rovers at Burroughs Park.

Bentley opened the scoring for the Urchins in the seventh minute and David Knight doubled the visitors advantage ten minutes later.

And despite the Rovers being backed by a bumper home crowd of 183, it was a case of more of the

same after the break. Purcell twice breaching the ragged Rovers rearguard before Bentley completed the rout three minutes from time.

This victory lifted Hornchurch into third place, just four points behind league leaders Cray Wanderers, while Gary Ansell's Rovers, now without a win in eight, slip to sixteenth.

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